



Royal Conservatoire  
of Scotland

# RCS Guide 2026



#LikeNowhereElse

# *This* **Is What We Do...**

## **A very warm welcome to the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.**

**This is a special place in so many ways: a national conservatoire for Scotland as well as a vibrant community of artists and creative producers, encompassing students, staff and alumni from more than 55 countries.**

Studying at RCS means developing excellence in your own discipline. More than that, you'll have a wealth of opportunities to collaborate with colleagues and teachers with different skills and experiences. Through everything you do here, we want to help you hone your own skills and find your voice as a creative citizen, for a world that needs creative citizens more than ever.

Here at RCS, you'll be encouraged to develop not just your art, but the power to use it. Through performance opportunities underpinned by research and pedagogical excellence, we will give you both a megaphone and a microscope, and the opportunity to refine your art so that you can reflect, shape and transform, and are prepared and ready to be an active, employable graduate.

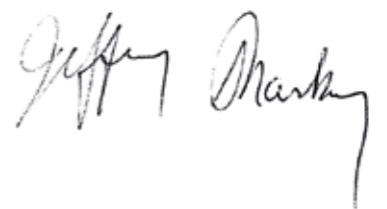
RCS is a community that values the importance of creating your own new art as well as bringing to life art from the near and distant past. Here you can realise your potential, develop your wider collaborative skills and create opportunities in one of the finest multi-disciplinary arts education environments in the world.

Our home city of Glasgow is a UNESCO City of Music that is regarded as one of the world's friendliest places. Glasgow is also home to five national performing arts companies; theatres, concert halls and live performance venues of all shapes and sizes; great food and nightlife; as well as acres of stunning green spaces. Beyond here, Scotland boasts some of the most beautiful wild landscapes on the planet, is rich in history and heritage and hosts the world's largest arts festival annually in Edinburgh.

RCS is a diverse centre of performance, with excellent venues and with active partnerships with all of Scotland's national performing companies and so many more. This helps us create a learning environment that encourages you to think for yourself, produce your own ideas and find your place in the ongoing story of humanity through the arts.

This guide is merely a snapshot of all that RCS is about and what we do. Better still, come and see us for yourself at one of our Open Days or get in touch to find out more about what matters to you. Come and be part of RCS – a place Like Nowhere Else. We hope to see you soon.

**Professor Jeffrey Sharkey**  
Principal




# Music

**Our Music programmes balance practical experience with professional development, preparing you for success in your chosen field.**

**“I enjoy the freedom. The Masters course is designed in a way where you can do whatever you feel is best for you and your career.”**

**Inês Soares**  
MMus/MA Performance (Violin)



**Watch**

Scan the QR code to hear more about Inês' experience at RCS

The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

**RCS Undergraduate Music programmes are practical and vocational, with time devoted to individual and ensemble performance activities.**

**“I researched the opportunities students get and the teachers here were amazing. I just knew I had to apply.”**

**Christopher Lo**  
BMus (Hons) Performance (Saxophone)



**Watch**

Scan the QR code to hear more about Christopher's experience at RCS

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# Music

**Our Postgraduate Music programmes refine and extend your musicianship in preparation for the next step of your career.**

**“The tuition I have received from RCS has been world-class. The teachers and coaches we’ve had in the opera school have been incredible.”**

**Rosie Lavery**  
MMus Opera



**Watch**

Scan the QR code to hear more about Rosie's experience at RCS

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# Dance

**Our Dance programmes will prepare you for a professional career as a technically strong, confident and versatile dancer.**

**“The teachers are very understanding; they notice what each student needs to make them the best dancer they can possibly be.”**

**Devon Martirez y McFarland**  
BA Modern Ballet



**Watch**

Scan the QR code to hear more about Devon's experience at RCS

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# Education

**Learn and develop the skills you need to be a leader in performing arts education.**

**“I chose to study at RCS because of its reputation and the great teachers and experience they have. It’s beneficial for me as someone training to be a teacher, to have that gained knowledge.”**

**Shane Kamran**  
Bachelor of Education (Music)  
with Honours (Tabla)



**Watch**

Scan the QR code to hear more about Shane's experience at RCS

# Stage & Screen

**Master the creative and technical skills to become the force that brings stories to life.**

**“Because the year groups are small you are with your teachers all the time. They help us with contacts and figuring out what we’re going to do when we graduate.”**

**Charlotte Mae Brookshank**  
BA Production Arts and Design (Scenic Art)



**Watch**

Scan the QR code to hear more about Charlotte's experience at RCS

# Stage & Screen

**Our practical filmmaking programme refines specialist storytelling skills to prepare the filmmakers of the future.**

**“I really like the opportunities for collaboration, we’re making films with the drama, production and composition students. That way of working is really reflective of the film and TV industry.”**

**Isla Lynch**  
BA Filmmaking



**Watch**

Scan the QR code to hear more about Isla's experience at RCS

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**Develop the creative artistry to become a collaborative and courageous performance maker.**

**“The quality at RCS is really high and the atmosphere is fantastic. There’s lots of people from other courses you get to meet, make friends with and make possible work connections with for the future.”**

**Ross McGeough**  
BA Performance  
for Deaf and HoH Actors



**Watch**

Scan the QR code to hear more about Ross' experience at RCS

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# *The Power of* **Collaboration**

**Study at RCS and you'll work with fellow students as part of a community where learning and creativity go hand in hand under one roof.** Our production of the musical *Children of Eden* is a perfect example.

(L-R) Sebastian Lim-Seet, Star Penders, Sara Bartos perform in *Children of Eden*.

The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

**“We’re encouraged to collaborate, be self-motivated and look outside the box... I’ve enjoyed this show being student-led.”**

**Eoin Beaton**

BA Production Technology  
and Management student





From sound to scenic art, from carpentry to costume, and from props to performance, the staging of this epic and expansive musical brought together almost 100 students from across RCS.

They designed and constructed the elaborate moving set, performed music, hand-stitched the costumes, devised ambitious automation and lighting plans, generated an immersive sound world and ensured that every element, on stage and off, was seamlessly managed for the duration of the run.

The show perfectly illustrates what it means to study at RCS, a place where all the performing arts are taught under one roof in an environment that cultivates a culture of creative collaboration... where artists come together across art forms to make magic happen.

*Children of Eden*, in RCS's New Athenaeum Theatre, was the final public performance for the BA Musical Theatre class of 2023, who shared the spotlight with students from the School of Music, and from MA Musical Theatre: Musical Directing, BA Production Arts and Design and BA Production Technology and Management.

**“It’s great to get to work with loads of other students from different departments and see the work that they put into things. It’s such an ensemble show, so everybody feels like a proper community.”**

**Star Penders**  
BA Musical Theatre student

Images above: The cast, creative team and production team of *Children of Eden* at the model box presentation. Opposite: Designer **Sophie Sholl** with her set model box.

The musical, about the timeless conflict between parents and children, and written by the creator of *Wicked* and *Godspell*, takes its inspiration from the Book of Genesis, and traces humanity’s fall, from Adam and Eve to the story of Noah.

“It’s been absolutely amazing,” said Star Penders, BA Musical Theatre student, who played the role of Father. “In third year, we perform big shows where we’re constantly working with other people like sound, music, production, set designers... it’s great to get to work with loads of other students from different departments and see the work that they put into things. It’s such an ensemble show, so everybody feels like a proper community.”

Fellow musical theatre student Michali Dantes agreed: “It feels like such a huge student effort across the whole production, and it makes it really special.”

As the only conservatoire in Europe to offer degrees across all of the performing arts, the curriculum is built around collaboration in performance. And more than 500 public performances every year make RCS one of Scotland’s busiest arts venues.

Many of our drama productions are jointly created with students from our Production degree programmes. Production students help to bring the director’s vision to life; whether it’s designing the set and costumes, taking control of the sound and lighting design or stage-managing the crew and performances.

“Theatre is all about collaboration between different people – it wouldn’t happen if you didn’t have that,” said Sophie Sholl, the show’s set and costume designer who studied on the BA Production Arts and Design programme.

**“Theatre is all about collaboration between different people — it wouldn’t happen if you didn’t have that.”**

**Sophie Sholl** BA Production Arts and Design student



“We’re encouraged to collaborate, be self-motivated and look outside the box,” added Eoin Beaton, a BA Production Technology and Management student who was *Children of Eden*’s lighting technician and followspot operator. “I’ve enjoyed this show being student-led; all the heads of departments are third years. In some other shows, external people will come in, but this feels like a nice way to round off the end of the year.”

Scotty Scott, Head of Flys on the show, enjoyed the autonomy of *Children of Eden* and having the run of RCS’s 344-seat New Athenaeum Theatre: “We get a whole theatre to ourselves, we get to play, we get to make everything move on the stage and be a part of it, either creating the system for it or putting these massive sets in and rolling them about the stage. And all of it is us.

“Getting to decide what things look like is really exciting for us – we’ve been able to take it into our own hands.”



**Watch**

Scan the QR code to hear more from our students about collaborating on *Children of Eden*



Images clockwise from top left: students read and sing through the show for the first time; the cast onstage in the New Athenaeum Theatre; the sound desk for the production during a dress rehearsal; student **Hugo Rolland** (Abel) in the production; Assistant Musical Director **John Hodgson** plays in the pit during a dress rehearsal; production students put finishing touches on the set and costumes; director **Oliver Lidert** with designer **Sophie Sholl**; performers getting their microphones fitted by production crew in the wings.



## Theatre Green Book

[www.theatregreenbook.com](http://www.theatregreenbook.com)

*Children of Eden* was brought to the RCS stage using the Theatre Green Book, an environmentally conscious framework to make the theatre industry more sustainable and which puts future theatre-makers at the heart of the climate conversation.

The Theatre Green Book is a free resource for everyone in the UK theatre sector and sets standards for making productions sustainably, for making theatre buildings sustainable, and for improving operations like catering and front of house.

Ros Maddison, Head of Production, and Lynfryn MacKenzie, Head of Technical Production, are working with students and staff to ensure processes and outputs, over multiple disciplines and art forms, are as sustainable as possible. Their work has led to RCS becoming one of the first drama schools to have environmental sustainability embedded into final-year learning outcomes for production students.

It includes making sure materials come from reused or recycled sources and that they can go on to future lives, avoiding harmful and unsustainable materials, running technical systems efficiently and reducing journeys and deliveries.

**Find out more about RCS's sustainable measures on P.60.**

# *Putting YOU in the* **Spotlight**

**Our curriculum is built around performance. From concerts at the world-famous Celtic Connections festival to touring with Scottish Ballet, RCS can offer you amazing opportunities to develop your artistry before you've even set foot in the professional world.**

RCS Music students perform at Glasgow's iconic venue, The Barrowland Ballroom, during Celtic Connections.

The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

**On Stage at Celtic Connections**

Every year, students from RCS’s Traditional Music programmes – one of a few UK Bachelor of Music degrees dedicated to traditional and folk music – perform at this world-famous festival in Glasgow, that attracts fans from around the globe.

And in 2024, classical musicians from RCS also joined the Celtic Connections lineup for two special and sold-out performances at legendary Glasgow venues.

First up on that Saturday afternoon in January, students from across the BMus and MA/MMus Traditional Music programmes played a storming set at Glasgow’s Royal Concert Hall.

*The Big Folk Band* showcase of new music was written and arranged for the festival, and directed by RCS Creative Producer and award-winning guitarist Jenn Butterworth.

**“Performing at a major festival like Celtic Connections, to an international audience, is an incredible platform for any musician.”**

**Professor Joshua Dickson** Head of Traditional Music

“The annual Celtic gig is a unique element of the Traditional Music programmes and one of the highlights of the year. Professional opportunities of this scale are invaluable for students, from the experience of playing in a venue like the Royal Concert Hall to the industry connections they make.”

Later that night, the RCS Symphony Orchestra, conducted by John Logan, Head of Brass and Head of Timpani & Percussion, raised the roof of Glasgow’s iconic Barrowland Ballroom in *Roddy Hart’s Roaming Roots Revue*, an epic concert that brought together a host of Scottish bands and musicians, including Biffy Clyro’s Simon Neil, Del Amitri’s Justin Currie, Eddi Reader and Brownbear.

The concert was replicated the following night at the Concert Hall. “It was RCS’s first-ever Barrowlands gig and it was incredible to perform at such a legendary venue that has played host to some of the biggest names in music,” said John Logan.

“A symphony orchestra onstage at the Barrowlands, performing a fresh spin on modern Scottish classics, was something pretty special. It was an amazing experience for students, who shared the stage with some of the UK’s top artists.”

Images: RCS music students performing at the iconic Barrowlands alongside Scottish musicians **Roddy Hart** (top right) and **Brownbear** (centre right).



## On Tour with Scottish Ballet

The curtain rises and a hush settles over the audience at Edinburgh's Festival Theatre. Outside may be a cold and grey January day but in here, magic is about to happen. The orchestra strikes up, a dazzling Art Nouveau-inspired set appears, and the stage floods with the dancers of Scottish Ballet, a whirl of shimmering, billowing ballgowns and colourful costumes, as they bring a fresh spin on a much-loved favourite to the stage.

Amongst them are five students from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland's Modern Ballet degree programme, who have joined the company for its winter season, which will see them tour *Cinders!* in theatres across Scotland and the north of England.

The BA Modern Ballet programme at RCS is delivered in partnership with Scottish Ballet, where students work with the artistic team, dancers, and acclaimed teachers and choreographers, including Artistic Director and CEO Christopher Hampson, throughout their studies. Final-year students take company class with Scottish Ballet at their HQ at Tramway, and every year, some are selected to join the company on tour.

Third years, Tahlia Buckley, Mia Nicholas, Mary-Jean Riley, Phoebe Watson and Elizabeth Williams, are on the second leg of *Cinders!* in Edinburgh, after its premiere in Glasgow. From the capital, they'll venture to Aberdeen, Inverness and Newcastle, in a run that takes in 61 shows.

Going on the road with a world-renowned company, while still a student, is rare, says Kerry Livingstone, Head of the Modern Ballet degree programme at RCS.

"It's an incredible opportunity to perform with a company like Scottish Ballet before graduating and embarking on a mainstage tour across the country and further afield.

"It's one of the unique elements of our partnership with Scottish Ballet – students working alongside and learning from some of the best in the industry.

"They're immersed in the day-to-day life of a professional dancer which gives them the insight, experience and skills to prepare for a career in dance."

After the curtain falls on the matinee, the RCS dancers have a couple of hours before they're back on stage for the evening performance. The tour, they all agree, has been a phenomenal learning experience.

Mia Nicholas, from Scotland, who was part of Scottish Ballet's Associate programme before joining RCS, describes it as 'incredible and inspiring'.

**"They're immersed in the day-to-day life of a professional dancer which gives them the insight, experience and skills to prepare for a career in dance."**

**Kerry Livingstone** Head of Modern Ballet



"Getting to work with the company that I've grown up with and learn from the professional dancers who I've watched since I was little is amazing – it has been a dream!

"It has helped me learn more about myself as a dancer and how to work independently. Also, a few weeks ago, I was put on stage with only an hour's notice, so I got to experience that high-pressure environment, which really sets you up for what you're training to do and the career that comes with it."

And she says she doesn't want her time at RCS to come to an end: "The friendships I've made will last a lifetime and it's such a positive environment. I'm just so grateful for all my teachers and the help that I've been given to get me to this point and the opportunity to perform in *Cinders!*... I'm just so grateful."

From left to right: RCS Modern Ballet students **Mia, Tahlia, Mary-Jean, Elizabeth, Phoebe** at the Festival Theatre in Edinburgh; RCS graduate **Danila Marzilli** prepares backstage; RCS graduate **Urara Takata** waits in the wings of *Cinders!*





Images: RCS Modern Ballet students perform in Scottish Ballet's *Cinderella*!

Elizabeth Williams, from Sydney, says being in a professional environment shows emerging dancers what's expected in the industry: "It's different to school in the sense that you're more in charge of your own schedule so it shows you how to approach your training every day. Independence is a big thing that I'll take away from this experience."

**“It’s important to experience what you’re training for, and it gives you confidence and helps shape you into your own individual dancer.”**

**Mary-Jean Riley** BA Modern Ballet student

Elizabeth says it is an ‘amazing’ opportunity for emerging dancers: “Even taking company class every day is a dream come true. It’s really something to be part of such a big production like this and it’s bridging the gap between being a student and being a professional and seeing what it is that you’re striving for.”

“Being on stage with so many incredible artists, the buzz while performing and dancing in front of a live audience has been magical,” adds Mary-Jean Riley, from Brighton.

“Being able to take class and dance alongside people who have done this for so long, and are so experienced, and getting to see how they approach everything has really helped me get an idea of what it’s like in company life, and they’ve been extremely kind and welcoming.

“It’s important to experience what you’re training for, and it gives you confidence and helps shape you into your own individual dancer.”



**Watch**

Scan the QR code to hear more from our Modern Ballet students about touring with Scottish Ballet



The tour has further cemented New Zealand student Phoebe Watson’s passion for ballet: “I’m just really inspired. It has made me realise why I’m doing this and how much I love it.

“Even the rehearsal process and classes at Scottish Ballet were inspiring for me, watching the other dancers and how they approach this job,” Phoebe continued.

“I’ve really enjoyed touring and it has been cool going to different cities. One of the main factors of studying at RCS was the connection with Scottish Ballet, as well as how broad the curriculum is. It’s a really nurturing environment.” As pointe shoes are untied and costumes hung up between shows, Tahlia Buckley, from Australia, smiles as she says it has been ‘surreal’.

“Today’s actually our 38th performance - it has been an amazing experience and I’ve really enjoyed working with the company.

“I feel very fortunate for how it is shaping me as an artist, being immersed in the company and seeing how everything comes together.

“As a student, our end goal is to be a working dancer and having these opportunities really helps us understand what it takes to be at that professional level.”

**Find out about RCS’s Dance programmes on P.67.**

# Learn from the Best

**The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland is recognised as one of the world's top 10 places to study the performing arts by the prestigious QS World University Rankings 2025.**

Students work with award-winning teaching staff, celebrated global artists and industry experts in a world-class, creative environment.

Whether it's one-to-one lessons, masterclasses or side-by-side opportunities, RCS staff will share their invaluable insights and experience to help you develop and thrive.

More than 1,000 lecturers, tutors, artists, technicians, co-ordinators and support staff work at RCS across a wide range of art forms. As a student here, you will work with some of the finest educators and performing and production artists in the country.

Many of our teaching staff combine teaching with professional work, with music teachers holding positions in national orchestras, drama tutors directing professional companies and film lecturers working on new projects around the world.

Our teaching staff have won accolades such as Music Tutor of the Year, a Gramophone Award, a BBC Music Magazine Award, Jazz Educator of the Year and a British Composer Award.

We also have strong relationships with leading professionals across the globe who join us as visiting artists throughout the year.

At RCS, you'll be empowered to be the artist you want to be, supported and nurtured every step of the way.

Images, clockwise from top: Director of the School of Stage & Screen, **Marc Silberschatz**, teaching a movement class; Visual Theatre Lecturer, **Ramesh Meyyappan**, directing BA Performance students; Costume Construction lecturer **Christine Murphy** showing costume sketches; **Paul Mitchell**, Kit Co-ordinator, teaching camera work; Lecturer in Stage Technology, **Steve Macluskie**; Head of Strings **Andrea Gajic** working with a student; **Matthew McAllister** (right), Guitar Lecturer, with a student; an acting class led by Movement Lecturers, **Lucien MacDougall** and **Benedicte Seireup**.





Images, clockwise, from top left: **Nicola Benedetti CBE** performing in the Ledger Recital Room; **Mike Vass** (right), working with a guitarist; **Christopher Bruce** CBE in rehearsals with BA Modern Ballet students; **Patrick Doyle** visiting RCS; **Errollyn Wallen CBE**, Visiting Professor of Composition; Visiting Professor of Conducting **Martyn Brabbins** with pianist **Anna Michels**; **Nadine George** leads a voice class with BA Acting students; **Dame Janet Baker** teaching a masterclass; alumnus **James McAvoy** meets with Juniors Acting students; **Elisabeth Leonskaja** hosts a masterclass for Keyboard students.



## RCS Staff include:

### Jenn Butterworth

Creative Producer, Traditional Music

One of the UK's top folk guitarists and Creative Producer on the Traditional Music programme.

### John Logan

Head of Brass, & Head of Timpani and Percussion

John is a passionate musician having previously played with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra and City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.

### Professor Andrea Gajic

Head of Strings

Acclaimed violinist, chamber musician and educator who has performed across the globe.

### Dr Stuart MacRae

Senior Research Fellow and PHTP Lecturer in Composition

Award-wining composer of opera, orchestral, chamber and choral music.

### Brian Ferguson

Head of Classical and Contemporary Text

An established actor who has worked with many of the UK's leading theatres. Most recently he starred in the BBC's *Rebus*.

### Ramesh Meyyappan

Visual Theatre Lecturer

Ramesh is a theatre-maker who develops performances using an eclectic mix of visual and physical theatre styles.

### Dr Lio Moscardini

Lecturer in Arts Education

Lio is both a musician and educator, having played with Scotland's professional orchestras and led on national level music education research.

### Vince Hunter

Lecturer in Directing and Writing

Vince has worked in the film and television industry for over 16 years, producing work for broadcasters including STV, Channel 4 and the Discovery Channel.

### Christoph Wagner

Lecturer in Lighting

Christoph has worked as a Lighting Designer on productions in many genres, including theatre, stand-up, cabaret and fashion shows.

## Visiting Artists\* include:

### Nicola Benedetti CBE

Violinist, Edinburgh International Festival Director, and Honorary President of RCS.

### Martyn Brabbins

Visiting Professor of Conducting, Chief Conductor of the Malmö Symphony Orchestra and soon-to be Chief Conductor of The Symphony Orchestra of India.

### Brodsky Quartet

International string quartet.

### Nadine George

International Fellow and Founder of Voice International.

### Sir Stephen Hough

World-renowned pianist.

### Colin Currie

Solo and chamber percussionist.

### Dame Janet Baker

World-renowned mezzo-soprano.

### Errollyn Wallen CBE

Visiting Professor of Composition.

### Joe Russo

Hollywood director and producer.

### Elisabeth Leonskaja

Renowned pianist, recipient of the International Classical Music (ICMA) Lifetime Achievement Award

### Makoto Ozone

Award-winning jazz pianist.

### Carolyn Sampson OBE

Award-winning recording artist and soprano.

### Patrick Doyle

Hollywood film composer and Patron of the RCS Junior Conservatoire of Music.

### Mike Vass

Scottish composer and folk instrumentalist.

### Mark Bruce

Choreographer and founder of the Mark Bruce Company.

### Kai Fisher

Lighting designer.

### Clare Halleran

Set & costume designer.

### Finn den Hertog

RCS Graduate, theatre director, maker and actor.

### Roy Alexander Weise MBE

Theatre director.

### Jochen Schölch

Theatre director and acting coach.

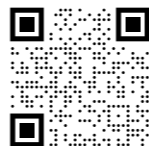
*\*previous artists  
and guests from  
recent years*

# A Campus Built for You

**Everyone who steps inside the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland can feel the pulse of this extraordinary place that's alive with a passion for performance, a sense that anything is possible... and its own special kind of magic. From rehearsal rooms and recording studios to the bustling hub of the café, and a library that has one of the world's most comprehensive collections of performance materials, here you'll have everything you need.**

BA Production Arts and Design student painting scenery at RCS's paintshop at Wallace Studios.

The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland



**Take a tour**  
Scan the QR code for  
our virtual tour

## Renfrew Street

### Professional performance venues

RCS is one of Scotland's busiest performing arts venues. Each year we programme over 500 performances across our five venues.

### The New Athenaeum Theatre

Known to staff and students as 'The Ath', this is RCS's main performance theatre seating almost 350 people. Here you'll find musical theatre, ballet, acting and opera showcasing their largest productions of the year, expertly managed by production students working with industry-standard lighting and sound equipment as well as our Stage Technologies flying system. The Ath also holds an orchestra pit which provides fantastic opportunities for music students to play as part of a large-scale production's musical accompaniment.

### Stevenson Hall

The Stevenson Hall, also known as 'The Stevie', is our main concert performance venue, equipped with a full lighting rig and high specification sound system. Performances in the Stevenson Hall have included the RCS Symphony Orchestra playing Shostakovich's Fourth Symphony, Mahler's Sixth and Seventh symphonies and Richard Strauss' *Ein Heldenleben*.

Image above: RCS's Patron **His Majesty King Charles III**, onstage in the New Athenaeum Theatre with alumnus **Sam Heughan**.

### Alexander Gibson Opera School (AGOS)

The AGOS is used by our school of opera for rehearsals and development workshops. It's the space where, in the past, we developed our multi-award-winning premiere of the original version of *War and Peace*, which was presented in partnership with Scottish Opera before embarking on tour.

### Ledger Recital Room

The Ledger Recital Room features a striking, open design with sycamore panelling and a minstrels' gallery. The Ledger seats over 100 people and is the venue for many of our workshops and masterclasses.

### The Chandler Studio Theatre

The Chandler is a versatile studio theatre, seating up to 125 in various configurations. It's a black box studio which is used by most performance programmes. As well as staging plays, and hosting our annual production arts and design showcase, the Chandler is frequently used for devised performances and technical teaching sessions.

### Rehearsal and practice rooms

With more than 90 practice and rehearsal spaces across our two buildings, students can make the most of their learning experience at RCS. You'll also find a suite of studios, built to accommodate large-scale sets for a true rehearsal experience. Some practice rooms are equipped with a sound system, piano, television and lighting bars. Others are acoustically separated for individual practice and one-to-one teaching lessons.

## Wallace Studios

### Home to Production Arts

The Production facilities at RCS have been custom-built to ensure you have the best possible learning experience. Wallace Studios at Speirs Locks is home to RCS's design studios, paintshop, prop rooms, wardrobe and construction workshops. Everything you need to dream, design and create work for performance is right here. At the heart of Wallace Studios is the massive construction workshop with fully equipped welding bay and machine shop. The adjoining paintshop is extensive and large enough to house a full-sized paint frame, the only one of its kind in Scotland.

### Design Studios

This is where the creative process starts. The design studios have been specially created to be light, airy spaces where designers can work on their creative concepts, producing the appropriate drawings and model boxes to communicate their visions to the students who will make them. These studios are havens of creativity and design students have free access to these spaces to work independently whenever the building is open.

### Production Arts Workshops

At the heart of Wallace Studios is the massive construction workshop with fully equipped welding bay and machine shop. The adjoining paintshop is also extensive and large enough to house a full-sized paint frame, the only one of its kind in Scotland. There are three well-equipped props workshops facilitating both wet and dry prop making activities as well as providing individual spaces for personal projects and portfolio work. Almost all RCS sets and props are created within these workshops and production students will work alongside the designers and directors to create the best theatre experience possible.

### Wardrobe

Get lost in wardrobe, with costumes and accessories from every era imaginable. Here, you'll also find purpose-built costume construction workshops and stores equipped with industrial and domestic sewing machines, Stockman dummies and a comprehensive costume reference library.

### Ballet studios

Train with the professionals in our purpose-built ballet studios. Modern Ballet students benefit from a suite of studios and a fitness room, complete with Gyrotonics® equipment. Students can access physiotherapy sessions, pilates and massage. All four of the dance studios come with a piano, a playback system and have access to dressing rooms and showers with fully accessible toilets.

# National Companies & Partnerships



Production still from Scottish Opera's  
A Midsummer Night's Dream.

The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland



As Scotland's national, and only, conservatoire, we're uniquely placed to partner with the country's leading artistic companies to offer one-of-a-kind opportunities.

With Glasgow being home to all but one of Scotland's national performing arts organisations, you will benefit from the immeasurable experience on offer from our partners. From tours and professional placements to performing with world-renowned orchestras and theatre companies, our partners enable RCS students to truly be professionals in training. Discover here who you'll have the chance to work with and just some of the opportunities they'll present you with at RCS.

## Royal Scottish National Orchestra

- | Professional Experience Scheme
- | Specialised mentoring
- | Individual feedback sessions
- | Postgraduate conducting opportunities

*"Performing alongside the RSNO unlocks many of the skills that cannot be learned from academic study or the practice room alone."* **Alistair Mackie** Chief Executive, Royal Scottish National Orchestra

## Scottish Ballet

- | Students join company classes
- | Work with guest teachers and choreographers
- | Exclusive access to rehearsals
- | Opportunity to join the company on tour

*"The ability to share our learning, anticipate future trends and challenges within the creative industries and, most importantly, to continue to inspire new generations of creative artists is vital for us."* **Christopher Hampson** Artistic Director and Chief Executive, Scottish Ballet

## The National Piping Centre

- | Rehearsals in the Piping Centre's creative environment
- | Gain real-world trad music connections
- | Professional experience
- | Access to renowned piping festivals

*"The partnership between RCS and The National Piping Centre is unique and is at the heart of this living and ever-evolving tradition."* **Finlay MacDonald** Director, The National Piping Centre

## National Theatre of Scotland

- | Individual mentoring opportunities
- | Work placements for production students
- | Gain access to important networks of theatre-makers

*"RCS has proven to be one of the most important cornerstones of National Theatre of Scotland productions over the years. They make an invaluable contribution to the vibrancy of Scottish theatre and continue to provide a vital training ground for Scottish theatre talent, both on and off the stage."* **Jackie Wylie** Artistic Director and Chief Executive, National Theatre of Scotland

## BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra

- | Professional experience
- | Performing and broadcasting opportunities
- | Behind-the-scenes access
- | Leverhulme Conducting Programme

*"The musicians of the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra are always delighted to work with the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. It is exciting to see the future of our industry emerging through our partnerships."* **Dominic Parker** Director, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra

This is **What We Do**

Images, clockwise from top right: Scottish Chamber Orchestra musicians perform side-by-side with RCS wind students; **Christina Gordon** performs in *Kidnapped* by National Theatre of Scotland; **Thomas Søndergård** conducts RSNO and RCS Students in Berlioz's *Grande Messe*; *20th Century Perspectives* by Scottish Ensemble; conducting student **Oliver Cope** at the Young Conductors Showcase with the BBC SSO.



**Scottish Ensemble**

- | Practical side-by-side experience
- | Ensemble Week
- | Young Artist Scheme
- | Opportunities to tour

*"RCS strings players have always responded to our projects with enthusiasm, dedication and curiosity. It's a real pleasure to witness these musicians developing their individual and collaborative talents."* **Jonathan Morton** Artistic Director, Scottish Ensemble

**Scottish Opera**

- | Individual coaching
- | Opportunity to perform as part of Scottish Opera's season
- | Access to networking and connection events
- | Masterclasses with world-renowned performers

*"Scottish Opera and RCS have a marvellous tradition of creating performances and sharing ideas, specialist teaching, and masterclasses with The Orchestra of Scottish Opera and visiting professional artists. We're delighted to offer career pathways for singers, conductors, répétiteurs, technicians, and stage management. And, best of all, we are neighbours here in Glasgow!"*

**Alex Reedijk** General Director, Scottish Opera

**Solar Bear**

- | Guest tutoring drama and production students
- | Consultation on course development and recruitment

*"Our partnership with RCS is dynamic, creative and inspirational. We are proud to see our Deaf Youth Theatre members continue to flourish within the BA Performance programme and to work with many talented graduates from RCS, creating opportunities for deaf talent to add diversity, depth and a new perspective within Scotland's arts sector. There is much still to achieve, and this partnership will remain vital to our artistic strategy."* **Solar Bear**

**Scottish Chamber Orchestra**

- | Side-by-side concerts
- | Ensemble performance opportunities
- | Industry placements
- | Residency programmes

*"We're very proud of our partnership with RCS, providing vital professional experience and unique opportunities in ensemble performance and music-making. We're pleased to play our part in helping these remarkable musicians thrive in the profession."* **Gavin Reid** Chief Executive, Scottish Chamber Orchestra

**Partnerships**

We are fortunate to have many opportunities for our students to perform and work alongside our partners. Outside of the national companies, we also partner with more than 80 organisations to provide you with the very best learning experiences that the UK has to offer.

Partners include:

- | Avolites
- | Vectorworks
- | Prime Video
- | BBC Scotland
- | Dumfries House
- | Citizens Theatre
- | BBC Radio 3
- | University of St Andrews
- | Celtic Connections
- | Dundee Rep
- | Scottish National Jazz Orchestra
- | No Drama

# Where Did You Go From Here?

**Whether it's the stage of the Royal Shakespeare Company before you've even graduated, or leaping into a dream role at a world-renowned ballet company, where do our graduates go after leaving RCS?**

We caught up with some RCS alumni who share their post-graduation paths and how their studies have shaped their careers.

**“It prepared me so much. RCS has such a professional atmosphere and it's inspiring because you're in such a motivated environment. I feel like RCS has a uniqueness – you don't just work within the ballet department, you work with every department.”**

**Hannah Cubitt**  
BA Modern Ballet, 2019  
Artist, Scottish Ballet

Alumna **Hannah Cubitt** as a Snowflake in Scottish Ballet's production of *The Snow Queen*.

# Hannah Cubitt

BA Modern Ballet, 2019  
Artist, Scottish Ballet

Opposite: **Hannah Cubitt** in rehearsals for Scottish Ballet's *Swan Lake*.

**What were your first jobs after graduating?**

In third year at RCS, I joined as one of the artists for the *Cinderella* tour and danced with them for three months or so. At the end of the tour, I was offered a job. It didn't feel real! I'd watched Scottish Ballet growing up and I never actually thought that it could be me on stage with them one day.

**How did RCS prepare you for the industry?**

It prepared me so much. RCS has such a professional atmosphere and it's inspiring because you're in such a motivated environment and everyone wants the best outcome for everyone. I feel like RCS has a uniqueness – you don't just work within the ballet department, you work with every department, which I find so interesting. Every year, we got to work alongside stage management, the technicians, the set and costume designers. A big part of RCS also was how you could become your own individual artist and not fall into the robotic, 'what you're meant to follow' system. It's 'how do you want to be perceived as a dancer?' RCS pushes boundaries.

**What did you enjoy most about your studies?**

The course is quite small, so you have personal relationships with all the staff – they're not just your lecturers, they're more like your support system and guides and leaders. They're always there for you. My third year was quite special. It started off touring with Scottish Ballet and then getting a job at the end of it. The relationships I've built with my year, especially, are so powerful and beautiful, and we have such support for one another. And we had fun in third year! One of my favourite experiences is when we performed at Buckingham Palace. It was such a surreal moment.



**Does anything stand out from your training that you've carried into your professional life?**

RCS training supported us to become unique and individual artists. They helped me shape how I want to be perceived as a dancer and I was given the freedom to develop my own personal style, avoiding the self-limiting temptation to 'blend in' and conform to conventions.

**Any career highlights?**

Being at Scottish Ballet feels like home, I have such wonderful feelings towards the company. I have lots of favourite moments from my time here. One was when I got to perform Mazelda in *The Snow Queen* and I played Morag in *Cinders!*, which involved character work and I'd come off stage in hysterics. And then there's *Swan Lake*. It's such a challenging piece and to do Big Swans on top of it is so rewarding and fulfilling.

**What would you say to those thinking about studying at RCS?**

Even if it's just auditioning for the experience, it's so worthwhile. And you really can't explain the environment of RCS unless you've been in there. It's such a different world and the motto, 'Like Nowhere Else' – I truly believe that. I've never experienced an environment the same as it, it's so special.

# Benjamin Osugo

BA Acting, 2023  
Actor

Opposite: **Benjamin Osugo** as Angus in the Royal Shakespeare Company's production of *Macbeth*.

**What were your first jobs after graduating?**

I was cast in *Macbeth* at the Royal Shakespeare Company before I graduated, so I missed the graduation ceremony as I went straight into an eight-week rehearsal period in London. I had to try and forget how big a company I was going into and focus on the job! It was a great learning experience. I had one of the smaller roles, Angus, which had a good number of lines but a lot of the time, I was observing how the other actors worked and letting that sink in. I learnt a lot from watching them. I try to see everything I do as a learning experience. After London, we went to Stratford and then I came back to Scotland to do *A Christmas Carol* with Dundee Rep.

**Any career highlights?**

Everything! It has been just under a year since graduating. Working with fellow RCS graduates, Anna Russell-Martin and Shyvonne Ahmmad in *Macbeth* was special.

**How did RCS prepare you for the industry?**

I've taken so much away from my studies. It was a fantastic foundation for me. The emphasis on your development as an artist, not just an actor, but someone who has a voice, and something to say. That's the kind of the thing when you step out into the world that makes you invincible.

**What did you enjoy most about your studies?**

Working with external directors made an impact on me – people who are not just there to teach but are role models. This taught me about the word professionalism, not in the sense of you go to an office and wear a suit or being formal. It's defining that for yourself. For me, it's doing what you need to do to be the best performer you can.



## “I’ve taken so much away from my studies. It was a fantastic foundation for me.”

**Does anything stand out from your training that you've carried into your professional life?**

What I come back to are the classes in first year, where you're playing around and getting to know each other... they're disguised as games but they're really about how to connect with people and getting to know each other.

**What would you say to those thinking about studying at RCS?**

Be yourself – be authentic. When you audition and are accepted, remember that the panel have seen something in you, and you owe it to yourself to see that same thing – the magic that you have.

# Adam Lee

Bachelor of Music –  
Performance (Clarinet), 2021  
Co-Principal Clarinet,  
BBC Symphony Orchestra

Opposite: Adam Lee.

**What were your first jobs after graduating?**

After graduating in July 2021, I went on to study at the Royal College of Music until July 2023, which is when I started my job as Principal Clarinet No. 2 at the BBC SSO. I’ve since moved onto the BBC Symphony Orchestra in London as Co-Principal Clarinet.

**Any career highlights?**

I’ve been very fortunate to have so many incredible experiences. Some that immediately jump to mind are a memorised performance of Shostakovich’s 9th Symphony with Aurora Orchestra, Sir James MacMillan’s clarinet concerto *Ninian* at the RCM and an electric Tchaikovsky’s 6th Symphony with the BBC SSO and Ilan Volkov at the 2023 Proms.

**How did RCS prepare you for the industry?**

The sheer variety, amount, and quality of music that I got to play gave me so many opportunities to develop my skills and push myself outside my comfort zone. Orchestral repertoire classes helped me build a solid foundation in playing in a wind section in an orchestra. I developed and honed my skills in performance classes and orchestral, chamber and contemporary projects. The key takeaway for me was that all my experiences at RCS helped me ensure I could rise to any technical, musical or professional challenge.

**What did you enjoy most about your studies?**

The highlights were my weekly lessons with my teacher, John Cushing – we covered a huge amount of repertoire in the most inspiring, exciting and encouraging ways. John helped me realise what I wanted to achieve and gave me the tools to go and do exactly that.



**Does anything stand out from your training that you’ve carried into your professional life?**

My teacher, John, knew how to push me to achieve my potential but he could also tell when I was pushing myself too much. And so, he helped me learn when you need to take a break. It can be tempting to fill every gap in your day, especially when you’ve got a lot coming up.

**What would you say to those thinking about studying at RCS?**

Choosing to study at RCS was one of the greatest decisions I have made, both professionally and personally. When I look back at the course of my career so far, my studies at RCS were a time of exponential growth and personal development. The nurturing environment is such that I was able to rapidly develop as a musician, but also as a person thanks to the supportive staff and students around me. It’s a wonderful, inspirational place to learn.

# Colleen Bell

BA Filmmaking, 2022  
Filmmaker

Opposite: Colleen Bell, following her win at the Royal Television Society Scotland’s Awards 2022 for her film, *The Space I Occupy*.

**What were your first jobs after graduating?**

I got my first job in TV just before graduation. Trying to write my grad film script while also working as a production runner for Raise the Roof Productions was incredibly difficult! I also really pushed myself, so did some amazing things like shoot a game show in development, edit casting tapes for *Love It or List It*, manage a prop store and help test crafts for *Kirstie’s Handmade Christmas*. My experience was invaluable and always stands me in good stead in interviews for upcoming jobs – I get to say I can try my hand at just about anything!

**Any career highlights?**

Sitting in the audience of Glasgow Film Festival and hearing people laugh at the script I wrote for *Next in Line* (short film by Seyma Dag). It was a sensitive script about the struggles of the benefits system and living as a refugee in Scotland, but I am glad I was able to strike a balance between funny and dramatic.

**How did RCS prepare you for the industry?**

I honed my creative skills here, which in turn built my confidence, so when I was ready to go out into the world, self-doubt didn’t hold me back from taking career risks and pursuing opportunities that I wouldn’t have been able to do before RCS.

**What did you enjoy most about your studies?**

RCS was an excellent environment to just play as an artist, it’s a safe environment to try, fail, and try again.

**Does anything stand out from your training that you’ve carried into your professional life?**

Set boundaries. A tired artist is no good. And sometimes it’s okay to lock your phone away in a drawer and touch some grass.



**“I honed my creative skills here, which in turn built my confidence, so I was ready to go out into the world of work.”**

**What would you say to those thinking about studying at RCS?**

You do belong here. I never for a million years thought someone like me from a low socio-economic background and estrangement could make it in a conservatoire. The reality is, I have never felt more welcomed and seen in my entire life. RCS will recognise your artistry and welcome you home with open arms.

**Marie Cayeux**  
Master of Music – Opera, 2023  
Soprano

Opposite: **Marie Cayeux** performing in *A Feast in Time of Plague* in RCS’s New Athenaeum Theatre.

**What were your first jobs after graduating?**

My very first job after graduating was singing in the chorus of the Bayreuth Festival in Germany: it was very impressive to be part of such an important institution. Afterwards, I was invited to sing the Prizewinners’ recital with Hurn Court Opera. Then I sang the Dew Fairy for Hampstead Garden Opera: it was lovely to explore this character again after having performed it in RCS’s production of *Hänsel und Gretel* in 2022.

**Any career highlights?**

Singing the three coloratura roles in Ravel’s *Lenfant et les sortilèges* at Opéra de Monte-Carlo. I was part of their Young Artists Programme this season: it was amazing to sing the Fire, the Princess and the Nightingale with such a company and meet Cecilia Bartoli.

**How did RCS prepare you for the industry?**

We got to do countless mock auditions for industry professionals so that we’re quite used to them by the time we got out in the real world. Also, we took part in many productions which gave us an opportunity to refine our acting and singing skills and learn how to work with professional directors and conductors, very much reproducing work conditions of the industry. I really felt like I got to know myself and how I approached different situations whilst I was at RCS, which gave me confidence and somewhat smoothed my entry into my career.

**What did you enjoy most about your studies?**

I loved every opportunity I had to perform with the orchestra, not only during the opera productions but also in master-classes and workshops with Scottish Opera and during other projects with the Ballet or the Conducting departments. Otherwise, I loved my teachers, Scott Johnson and Elizabeth McCormack. They were so caring and supportive, while still pushing me to give my best. I felt that they respected the vision I had for my voice and career and helped me develop vocally and achieve my goals.



**Does anything stand out from your training that you’ve carried into your professional life?**

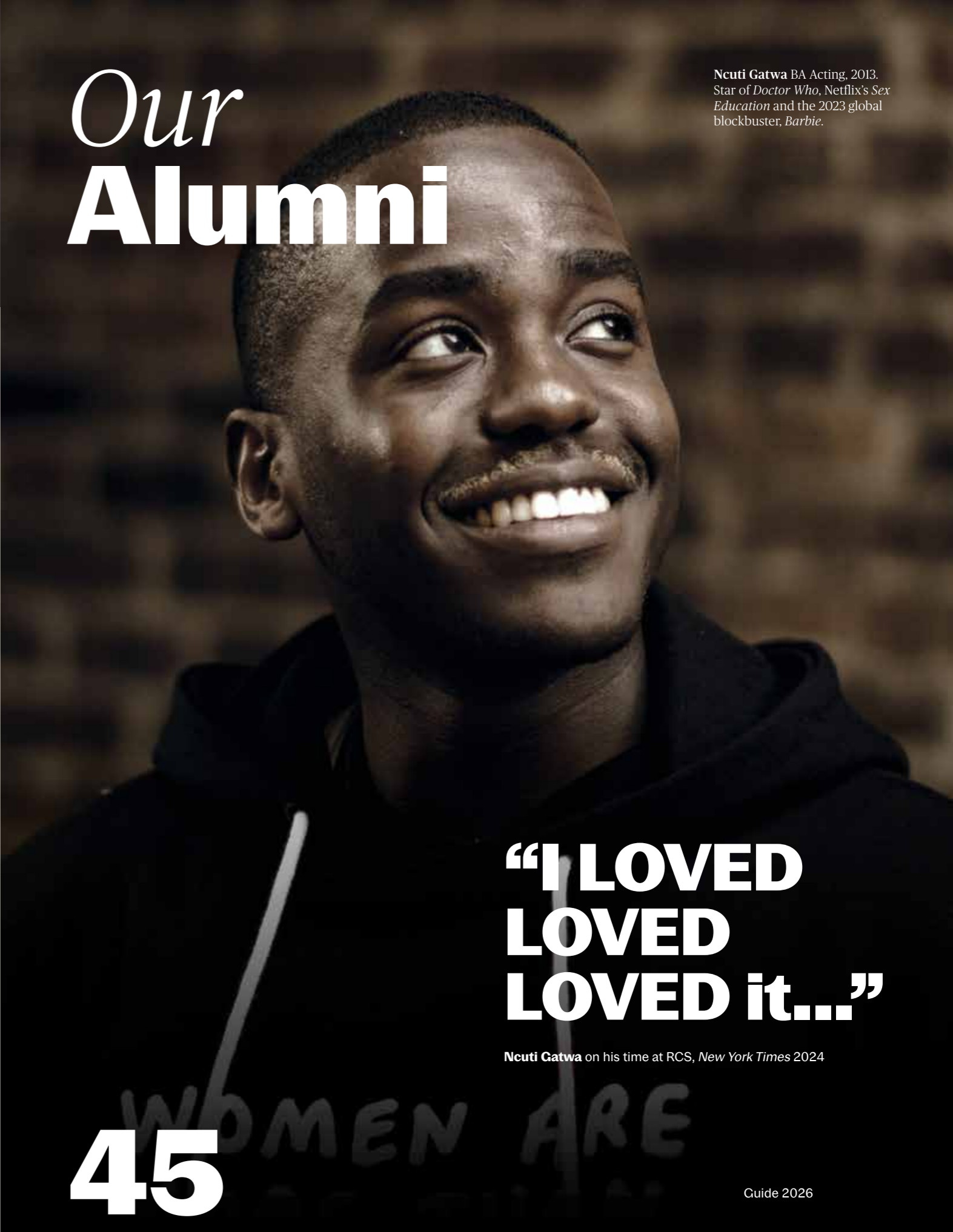
On the one hand, a conservatoire is a great place to get to know one’s limits and learn how to say no. On the other hand, at the beginning of your career, it can be very hard to get jobs and offers often come last minute, so being able to say yes and learn music quickly, under pressure, is a great skill. Resilience and determination are some of the most important virtues to do this job... and it starts at a conservatoire! All one can do is believe in oneself, not be afraid to try things out and dare to ask for support, then trust that hard work will ultimately pay off.

**What would you say to those thinking about studying at RCS?**

The facilities at RCS are fabulous, the staff are great and very supportive and there are lots of interesting musical projects to take part in. RCS really offers a positive environment for students and gathers such a nice community! They say people make Glasgow: this is also true for RCS. Glasgow is a great city to live and study. There’s all you need there, yet it is not too big a place. I can say that I have been very happy there, it was a great environment to pursue a course as intensive as an opera school can be and I miss it a lot now that I am back in London.

*Our*  
**Alumni**

**Ncuti Gatwa** BA Acting, 2013.  
Star of *Doctor Who*, Netflix’s *Sex Education* and the 2023 global blockbuster, *Barbie*.



**“I LOVED  
LOVED  
LOVED it...”**

Ncuti Gatwa on his time at RCS, *New York Times* 2024

**Our alumni make their mark all over the globe. RCS graduates can be found in concert halls and classrooms, on TV screens and film sets, on the world’s most iconic stages or making magic behind the scenes. Hollywood stars, cultural leaders, arts advocates and so much more — they’re part of a dynamic community who make an extraordinary impact.**

**Our alumni include**

**Sarah Ayoub**  
BMus Performance (Strings/Cello), 2014  
Sarah Ayoub, a Scottish/Egyptian instrumentalist and composer who, alongside her sister, has performed with the world’s leading orchestras.

**Ryan Bancroft**  
MMus Conducting, 2015  
Chief Conductor, Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra and Principal Conductor, BBC National Orchestra of Wales.

**Basia Bińkowska**  
BA Production Arts and Design, 2016  
Designer, Winner of Linbury Prize for Stage Design in 2017

**Teresa Riveiro Böhm**  
Leverhulme Conducting Fellow, 2019  
RCS Leverhulme Conducting Fellow (2019–2021) and an emerging force within the orchestral and operatic world.

**Krysty Wilson-Cairns**  
BA Digital Film and Television (now BA Filmmaking), 2009  
Academy Award-nominated screenwriter of Sam Mendes’ *1917* and *Last Night in Soho* with Edgar Wright.

**Jay Capperauld**  
MMus Composition, 2014  
Associate Composer for Scottish Chamber Orchestra.

**Karen Cargill**  
MMus Advanced Opera, 2001  
Grammy Award-nominated mezzo-soprano who performs on the world’s stages, including the Royal Opera House and New York’s Metropolitan Opera.

**Alan Cumming**  
BA Dramatic Studies, 1985  
Tony® Award-winning actor, author and activist, known for his performances across theatre, film and television.

**Laura Donnelly**  
BA Acting, 2004  
Olivier Award winner and Tony® nominated actress.

**Patrick Doyle**  
Diploma of RSAM (Teacher), 1975  
Academy Award-nominated composer of over 60 feature films, and Patron of the Junior Conservatoire of Music.

**Fiona Findlater**  
BA Technical and Production Arts, (now BA Production Technology and Management), 2013  
Formerly Stage Manager at English National Ballet, Fiona now works as Stage Manager for Matthew Bourne’s *New Adventures*.

**Ncuti Gatwa**  
BA Acting, 2013  
Star of *Doctor Who*, Netflix’s *Sex Education* and the 2023 global blockbuster, *Barbie*.



Images from L-R: Morven McLeod; The Ayoub Sisters; Teresa Riveiro Böhm; Krysty Wilson-Cairns; Fergus McCreddie; Chris Poon; Patrick Doyle; Sam McShane; Craig McCulloch; Nicola Killean; Jay Capperauld.

**Ainsley Hamill**  
BA Scottish Music,  
(now BMus Traditional Music), 2013  
Multi-award winning traditional Scottish singer-songwriter.

**Sam Heughan**  
BA Acting, 2003  
Star of the global phenomenon, *Outlander*, philanthropist  
and founder of the Write Start Award for RCS students.

**Anush Hovhannisyan**  
MMus Opera, 2013  
Opera star and RCS Opera Ambassador.

**Nicola Killean**  
BEd (Music), 2002  
Children and Young People’s Commissioner for Scotland,  
working alongside the Scottish Government to protect the  
human rights of children and young people.

**Katie Leung**  
BA Acting, 2015  
Actress, known for her roles in *Arcane*, *Harry Potter* and  
upcoming appearance in *Bridgerton*.

**Jack Lowden**  
BA Acting, 2011  
Olivier and Scottish BAFTA winning theatre, film and  
television actor.

**Michael Ahomka-Lindsay**  
BA Musical Theatre, 2021  
Award-winning West End performer, and star of *Newsies*,  
*Legally Blonde* and *Cabaret* at the Kit Kat Klub.

**Anna Russell-Martin**  
BA Acting, 2018  
Actress, recently performing for the Royal Shakespeare  
Company, Dundee Rep and Southwark Playhouse.

**Danila Marzilli**  
BA Modern Ballet, 2019  
Professional dancer and choreographer, and BBC Young  
Dancer 2019 finalist.

**Isobel McArthur**  
MA Classical and Contemporary Text  
(Acting), 2014  
Actor, director and 2022 Olivier Award-winning  
playwright for *Pride and Prejudice\** (\*sort of).

**James McAvoy**  
BA Acting, 2000  
Golden Globe and BAFTA-nominated actor, known for roles  
in Hollywood blockbusters such as *Split*, and for his theatre  
and philanthropic work, including the James McAvoy  
Drama Scholarship at RCS.

**Morven McLeod**  
BA Production Arts and Design, 2022  
Freelance set and costume designer based in Glasgow,  
who works extensively in both theatre and film.

**Fergus McCreadie**  
BMus Jazz (Piano), 2018  
Critically acclaimed jazz musician and 2022 Mercury  
Prize nominee.

**Craig McCulloch**  
BA Performance in BSL/English, 2018  
Co-CEO/Creative Director of Solar Bear, producing and  
touring high-quality, ambitious and critically acclaimed  
work showcasing deaf and hearing performers.

**Sam McShane**  
BMus Performance (Brass), 2009  
Artistic Director of Kings Place, and former Creative Director  
of Manchester Camerata.

**Catriona Morison**  
MMus Opera, 2013  
Winner of the BBC Cardiff Singer of the World 2017 Competition.

**Chris Poon**  
MA Musical Directing, 2018  
Musical director of the world premiere of *Burlesque*,  
and Assistant Musical Director for a number of West End  
musicals including *Bonnie & Clyde*, *The Great British  
Bake Off: The Musical* and *Tina: The Musical*.

**Sean Shibe**  
BMus Hons Guitar (Classical), 2012  
RCS Associate Artist, Sean is a Grammy nominated and  
Gramophone Award-winning guitarist and recipient of the  
2022 Leonard Bernstein Award.

**Beth Taylor**  
MMus Performance (Voice), 2018  
Mezzo-soprano, 2023 Cardiff Singer of the World  
grand finalist.

**David Tennant**  
BA Dramatic Studies, 1991  
Star of theatre, film and television, including  
*Doctor Who* and *Good Omens*.

**RCS graduates make an impact all over the world.  
Here are just some of the incredible places you’ll  
find our alumni.**



# The World's Friendliest City

You're always guaranteed a warm welcome in Glasgow... it's no surprise that it's regularly named one of the world's friendliest cities\*. Glasgow has long been home to cutting-edge artists and innovators who have made the city a vibrant cultural hotspot bursting with energy and personality, making it a city teeming with possibilities.

The city boasts many of Scotland's national performing arts organisations, world-class galleries and museums and buzzing nightlife, so there's always plenty to see and do. Glasgow's lively theatre scene, including the Tron Theatre, the Theatre Royal and the acclaimed A Play, A Pie & A Pint, ensures that you're always close to artists and performance. And Glaswegians' love of live music? It's legendary. From hotly tipped bands in tiny bars to global artists on arena tours, Glasgow's music scene pulses through the city. No wonder it was named the UK's first ever UNESCO City of Music in 2008.

As you weave your way through the city streets, taking in the City Centre Mural Trail or sampling our thriving food scene, you'll find a city that boasts both a fascinating artistic past, as well as an exciting future.

Scotland's largest city also offers excellent transport links, both to Edinburgh, the historic capital, and host of the world-famous Edinburgh Festival Fringe, and beyond to the Highlands, considered one of National Geographic's 'Best of the World' destinations for 2023.

*\*Time Out, 2022*

**“There’s so much going on in Glasgow, it’s a fantastic place for a student. Much like RCS, you’ll walk down a street and you’ll have five people smile at you. It’s such a friendly city to be in.”**

**Rosie Lavery**  
MMus Opera student

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The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland



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Guide 2026

# Scotland

**During your time here, no matter how long or short, you'll discover a country that will take your breath away, more mountains than you can climb (but you can try!) and vibrant, cosmopolitan cities bursting with opportunities for students and graduates.**

No matter where you look, from the highest peaks in the UK to the biggest arts festivals, Scotland will take you on an unforgettable journey. That's why more than 80,000 international students from over 180 countries decide to call Scotland home each year.

## Edinburgh

**A city cloaked in history, mystery and romance...** As a student at RCS, you'll find yourself a stone's throw from the city of Edinburgh, Scotland's captivating capital city, and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. A city where you'll be immersed in art, gothic architecture, design and culture. Just under 50 minutes away, it's a perfect day trip for RCS students on their days off!

## Scottish Highlands

In little over an hour, you'll be amongst the mountains of the Scottish Highlands, considered one of National Geographic's 'Best of the World' destinations for 2023. Explore mythical lochs, 'bag' your first Munro, get lost in the history of iconic castles, experience traditional music and ceilidhs at their very root or explore the rugged and untouched coastlines in the north.

**“What I love is that you're able to hop in a car, or get on a train or the bus for 30 minutes, and you're in a different world. Take 45 and you're in Edinburgh, which feels completely different to Glasgow.”**

**Parker Millspaugh**  
MMus Vocal Performance student

**Angela Koo**, a BMus (Hons) Performance (Strings) student from Malaysia at Balmaha, Loch Lomond.



# Supporting You

Students at the Student Union Welcome Home Freshers' Ball.

The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

**RCS is a welcoming and inclusive environment — a place where you can flourish, explore and realise your full potential. From the moment you arrive to the day you graduate, you'll be supported every step of the way. Whether it's practical, emotional or learning support, we'll ensure you have access to everything you need throughout your studies.**

## International Student Support

We are proud of the vibrant, international community at RCS, welcoming students from over 55 different countries. Our international student support services are designed to ensure that students from all over the globe feel at home and thrive during their time with us. This support includes assistance with visa and immigration processes, orientation sessions to help acclimatise to life in Scotland, and access to dedicated advisors who provide ongoing guidance and support throughout your studies.

## Exchange Opportunities

As a world-leading conservatoire and specialist institution with many international links, we encourage students to take part in overseas study. We have global connections with conservatoires and universities in Asia, North America, Australia and Europe to offer you opportunities to study a semester or a full year abroad.

We have a dedicated International and Student Experience Team who are happy to chat through any questions.

Get in touch: [international@rcs.ac.uk](mailto:international@rcs.ac.uk)

## Learning Support

All students can benefit from help with developing their study skills. Our Effective Learning Service is tailored to meet individual needs, from one-to-one appointments, workshops or online support.

We are committed to meeting the learning and teaching needs of all students, including those who identify as neurodivergent.

Find out more: [rcs.ac.uk/effectivlearning](https://rcs.ac.uk/effectivlearning)

## Engagement

Engagement at RCS is about sharing your knowledge and expertise with audiences, learners, businesses and communities beyond the Conservatoire, for wider social, cultural and economic benefit. RCS's Engagement Team supports students in making connections with other artists and arts organisations, creative companies, local and national government, national and international agencies, businesses, institutions and networks.

Find out more: [rcs.ac.uk/engagement](https://rcs.ac.uk/engagement)

## Support With Funding

We offer a range of funding support opportunities to students. During the student loan application process, some of these may be awarded automatically based on circumstance.

Our music scholarships, which are awarded for financial need and merit, are available to students applying to any of our undergraduate programmes, and to some postgraduate programmes. Our drama, dance, production and film scholarships are awarded similarly; however these are directly applied for via the RCS website.

We are proud to be the first arts institution to partner with the Cowrie Scholarship Foundation, which aims to fund up to 100 disadvantaged Black British students through higher education in the next decade.

Discover more out about our scholarships:

[rcs.ac.uk/financescholarship](https://rcs.ac.uk/financescholarship)

## Wellbeing

We offer, at any time during your studies, access to our professional counselling service. Our highly trained and experienced counsellors can help you to explore a range of personal issues in a supportive and confidential manner.

Students may select a preferred counsellor based on a range of factors, including gender, ethnicity and/or use of BSL.

RCS is also part of Togetherall ([togetherall.com](https://togetherall.com)), an online mental health support service that students can access 24/7.

Find out more: [rcs.ac.uk/counselling](https://rcs.ac.uk/counselling)

Care Experienced, Estranged and Student Carers

We’re committed to ensuring that those from all backgrounds feel able to apply to study with us. Care Experienced applicants who have been looked after at home, in residential care, foster care or kinship care can access extra support including:

- | Assistance with your application to RCS
- | Consideration for inclusion in our contextualised admission process
- | Priority consideration for extra financial assistance
- | Support with accommodation costs during the summer vacation
- | Advice on external financial support

Our Welfare Team is also available to support students with caring responsibilities, estranged students and students from military families.

Find out more: [rcs.ac.uk/study/supporting-you](https://www.rcs.ac.uk/study/supporting-you)

Disability support

We welcome applications from all people with disability support needs, including medical conditions, specific learning difficulties and unseen disabilities. Our staff are proficient in teaching people with a range of learning styles and are committed to promoting the development of independent learning skills.

If you would like to discuss support for your studies, contact: [disabilityservice@rcs.ac.uk](mailto:disabilityservice@rcs.ac.uk)

Equality, diversity and inclusion

Equality, diversity and inclusion is central to our working ethos. We value the unique identity of every student and staff member. Art and performance need diversity in the classrooms, on the stage and behind the scenes.

We celebrate our differences and believe that our diversity is an important contribution to our learning, teaching and creativity.

We aim to create an environment that is equitable, safe and inspiring for all; where everyone in our community treats each other fairly and with mutual respect, free from discrimination and intimidation. We have pledged to take action against any discriminatory behaviour in our community.

Students and staff meet regularly to discuss important issues around diversity and inclusion, where the student voice is listened to and valued.

Find out more about our approach to equality, diversity and inclusion at RCS: [rcs.ac.uk/equality](https://www.rcs.ac.uk/equality)

RCS Students’ Union

The lively, colourful heart of the student experience at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland is the RCS Students’ Union (RCSSU).

Whether it’s helping you find your feet in the first weeks of your student life, hosting events to bring you together with your peers, or making your voice heard – the Students’ Union is there for you from the moment you arrive, as you take a leap into this new and exciting chapter.

Follow the SU Instagram [@rcsunion](https://www.instagram.com/rcsunion) to stay updated with any upcoming student events and updates. You can also find out more about the work of the SU and how to get in touch with them via [rcsunion.scot](https://www.rcsunion.scot)



Accommodation

Located within a short walking distance from RCS, Base Glasgow\* is the student accommodation designed and built with you in mind. Purpose-built to cater for the needs of performers, the accommodation features five soundproofed practice spaces, as well as study areas, a cinema room, a gym and social spaces.

Benefit from:

- | soundproofed practice and rehearsal spaces
- | state-of-the-art gym
- | cycle store
- | cinema room and games room
- | roof garden and courtyard
- | laundry room
- | communal study rooms
- | dance studio

\*As spaces at Base Glasgow are limited, there are many other private accommodation options to suit your needs and budget.



**Find out more**  
Scan the QR code to find out more, see our website: [rcs.ac.uk/accommodation](https://www.rcs.ac.uk/accommodation)

# Career support and development

**At RCS, the Engagement Team offers specialist support to develop your career, start your own company, explore creative projects, and kickstart new collaborations. We recognise that developing professional skills alongside your artistic practice is key to building long, sustainable careers within the arts and creative industries.**

Through targeted funding, awards, mentorship, and training, the Engagement Team empowers students, staff and alumni alike to create new work, build industry relationships, pursue professional goals, and apply their expertise beyond RCS.

Whether you're interested in starting your own company, collaborating across disciplines, or using your art to inspire change - we're here to support you.



## Creative Enterprise Development Office

Creative practitioners often face unique challenges and opportunities in their careers. As a student at RCS, you'll have access to the Creative Enterprise Development Office (CEDO). It is a free-to-access service that provides tailored advice, guidance and mentoring through one-to-one clinics, workshops, funding opportunities, and structured programmes that support your professional practice and development. Whatever stage you are at, CEDO is here to support you in your creative career. You can access CEDO through the following pathways:

- | Advice & Guidance
- | Funding Opportunities
- | Enterprise Development Programmes

Find out more: [rcs.ac.uk/cedo](https://rcs.ac.uk/cedo)

## Innovation Studio

The RCS Innovation Studio is a resource for the RCS community that supports creative experimentation, collaboration, and interdisciplinary work. It seeks to unlock innovative work and potential across the Conservatoire, providing dedicated time and space to learn, grow, and play.

Innovation Studio offers support in the form of funding, residencies, inspiring events, and through our Community of Practice.

Strengthening innovation work at RCS is central to the Conservatoire's future ambitions and role as the national conservatoire and civic university.

Find out more: [rcs.ac.uk/innovationstudio](https://rcs.ac.uk/innovationstudio)

Following the successful two-year pilot (2022-24), Innovation Studio has published a comprehensive report that showcases people, projects, and initiatives supported throughout the pilot programme.



### Find out more

Scan the QR code to find out more, see our website: [rcsinnovationstudio.com/pilot-report](https://rcsinnovationstudio.com/pilot-report)



# Art has the power to make a difference...

**and our students, staff and alumni use their work to shine a light on climate change and sustainability.**

We're committed to ensuring our productions and processes are as sustainable as possible, from following the industry handbook, the Theatre Green Book, to recognising students' sustainable practices in our annual sustainability award.

RCS's vision is to nurture a sustainable community that supports and celebrates inclusive artmaking, from grassroots to world-leading performance and production.

We recognise the transformative power of the arts and understand our privileged position as educators to influence and be influenced by the next generation of creative artists.

We believe education for sustainable development requires a comprehensive institutional approach encompassing the curriculum, culture and campus environment

We are a signatory of the UN's Race to Zero campaign for universities and colleges, joining other education institutions worldwide in the urgent effort to combat climate change.

As part of this global initiative, we are dedicated to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2045, with maximum effort towards halving the emissions within our control by 2030.

This commitment reflects our understanding of the critical role that educational institutions must play in driving sustainability and equipping future generations to meet the environmental challenges ahead.

RCS is undertaking the following current measures:

- | Creating a carbon literate community by providing annual carbon literacy training
- | Embedding sustainable practices within our curriculum
- | Reducing waste and committing to zero waste to landfill
- | Committing to sustainable procurement of materials and services
- | Installing renewable energy technologies such as solar panels at Wallace Studios
- | Managing our investments responsibly, divesting from all fossil fuels and investing up to 15% in companies specialising in renewable energy
- | Supporting the provision of sustainable food and catering by growing root vegetables and herbs in our roof garden for use in our café
- | Measuring and reducing our carbon emissions in all areas of RCS activity

Find out more at: [rcs.ac.uk/greenroom](https://rcs.ac.uk/greenroom)



#### Find out more

Scan the QR code to learn more about RCS's sustainability practices

# Undergraduate

**RCS is one of the few places in Europe that offers undergraduate degrees in all the performing arts under one roof. Here, you'll delve into your chosen specialism with world-class faculty, industry professionals, and a vibrant community of like-minded artists.**

Our innovative undergraduate programmes are designed to equip you with the skills and knowledge to thrive in the ever-evolving creative and artistic landscape. Whether you dream of captivating audiences on stage, shaping the future of filmmaking or inspiring the next generation of musicians, RCS provides the perfect foundation for you.

Prepare to be challenged, inspired and transformed. Explore our programmes below and discover how RCS can empower you to become the creative force you were meant to be.

**BMus (Hons) Performance**

- | Brass
- | Guitar and Harp
- | Keyboard
- | Strings
- | Timpani and Percussion
- | Vocal Performance
- | Woodwind

**BMus (Hons) Joint Principal Study**

**BMus (Hons) Composition**

**BMus (Hons) Jazz**

**BMus (Hons) Traditional Music**

**BMus (Hons) Traditional Music: Piping**

**BA Acting**

**BA Musical Theatre**

**BA Performance *for Deaf and Hard of Hearing actors***

**BA Modern Ballet**

**BA Dance Artist**

**BA Production Technology and Management**

**BA Production Arts and Design**

**BA Filmmaking**

**BA Arts with Community**

**Bachelor of Education (Music) with Honours**

**Professional Graduate Diploma in Education (Music)**

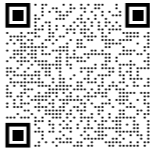


# Music

All undergraduate music students at RCS will graduate with a Bachelor of Music with Honours (BMus) from one of six pathways: Performance, Composition, Jazz, Traditional, Traditional Music: Piping or Joint Principal Study. Regardless of your pathway all undergraduate music students will:

- | Receive weekly one-to-one lessons on your principal study
- | Get performance opportunities both in-house and at music venues across Scotland
- | Have the chance to work side-by-side with some of Scotland's national orchestras
- | Get to work on collaborative projects with students from across the conservatoire
- | Work alongside expert industry professionals in regular masterclasses

**Find out more about Postgraduate Music at RCS on P.79.**



**Find out more**  
Scan the code to view all  
RCS Music Programmes

## **Undergraduate** **Bachelor of Music (Honours)**

Four years, full-time

The Bachelor of Music with Honours (BMus) undergraduate programme has been designed to be inspiring, flexible and tailored to meet your individual musical needs. There are six pathways for you to choose from – each created for you to specialise in your chosen field through a range of practical experiences and creative challenges.

The six pathways are:

### **1. Performance**

You can study the Performance pathway under any of the following departments: *Brass, Guitar and Harp, Keyboard, Strings, Timpani and Percussion, Vocal Performance and Woodwind.*

### **2. Joint Principal Study**

The JPS pathway allows you to study in two principal study areas, either two Performance disciplines, or Performance and Composition. It also includes Conducting as a principal study. Applicants will need to demonstrate an existing level of achievement in this area in order to be considered for the JPS Conducting pathway.

### **3. Composition**

### **4. Jazz**

### **5. Traditional Music**

### **6. Traditional Music: Piping**

*in partnership with the National Piping Centre*

Find out more: [rcs.ac.uk/bmus](https://rcs.ac.uk/bmus)

For full details on our music programmes, including performance opportunities, teaching staff and audition information, please see our website: [rcs.ac.uk/music](https://rcs.ac.uk/music)



# Dance

## SCOTTISH BALLET

There are two undergraduate programmes offered within the School of Dance - the three-year BA Modern Ballet, which is delivered in partnership with Scottish Ballet and the one-year BA Dance Artist programme. Both programmes are full-time, practically based and delivered by expert staff in our specialist facilities at Wallace Studios.

### BA Modern Ballet Three years, full-time

Developed and shaped in close partnership with **Scottish Ballet**, this programme will equip you with the technical and artistic skills required by today's professional dance companies. You will gain an insight into life within a professional company, as well as public performance opportunities, the chance to tour professionally and to work with commissioned choreographers from around the world. Focusing on classical ballet and contemporary dance, our curriculum is designed to equip you with the skills needed to thrive in the dance profession.

[rcs.ac.uk/ballet](https://rcs.ac.uk/ballet)

### Important dates

Make sure you apply on time to guarantee an audition.

UK deadline: **14 January**

International deadline: **31 March**



### Find out more

Scan the code to view all  
RCS Dance Programmes

### BA Dance Artist One year, full-time Top-up Degree for College Leavers

Introduced in 2025, this one year 'top-up' degree is for students who have completed two years of full-time training at Level 8 (HND or equivalent). Your technical and performance skills will be developed predominantly in jazz, commercial and contemporary dance, alongside modules in Teaching Skills and Choreographic Collaboration.

Regardless of which programme you follow, by the time you graduate you will be a confident, versatile and technically strong dancer with the tools to communicate with fellow artists, choreographers and audiences, ready for professional life.

For full details about our ballet programmes, including performance opportunities, teaching staff and audition information, please see our website: [rcs.ac.uk/dance](https://rcs.ac.uk/dance)



# Stage & Screen

Nurture your dramatic talents under the guidance of expert teachers and industry professionals. At RCS, you'll learn from a curriculum that spans both classical and contemporary practices. During your studies, you will become a multi-disciplinary artist with creative authenticity and flair having trained in one of the most collaborative conservatoires in the UK.

We are committed to creating an inclusive, supportive and progressive environment to help nurture the next generation of performance artists, directors and actors.

RCS Stage & Screen graduates consistently gain industry representation and continue to work across the arts and entertainment sectors: in the West End, on Broadway, in national and international tours, with national companies, regional theatres, and in a variety of television and film projects. Students here develop the skills, rigour and artistry to become collaborative and creatively courageous performance-makers.

## BA Acting

Three years, full-time

The RCS three-year BA Acting programme is one of the leading actor-training programmes in the UK. Practical and intensive training will prepare you for a professional career as an actor on stage, screen, audio and other digital media platforms. You will collaborate with others to make new work and perform in public-facing productions. Your actor-training journey will be one of discovery, with an awareness of the world around you as an artist.

[rcs.ac.uk/acting](https://rcs.ac.uk/acting)

## BA Musical Theatre

Three years, full-time

BA Musical Theatre is a distinctive, conservatoire-level programme for talented students dedicated to developing their skills in acting, singing, dance and music. We're looking for students who want to train with us and aspire towards a career in the musical theatre industry.

[rcs.ac.uk/BAMT](https://rcs.ac.uk/BAMT)

## BA Performance for Deaf and HoH actors

Three years, full-time



*Developed in partnership with Solar Bear*

This course is designed specifically for deaf and hard of hearing performers and is the only one of its kind in Europe. The programme prepares you for a career across the creative industries.

**BA Performance is now closed for applications but may consider direct applications into second year. Please get in touch with us at [hello@rcs.ac.uk](mailto:hello@rcs.ac.uk) to discuss this option.**

*This programme is subject to revalidation*

### Important dates

Make sure you apply on time to guarantee an interview.

UK deadline: **14 January**

International deadline: **30 January**



### Find out more

Scan the code to view all RCS Drama Programmes



### Find out more

Scan here for a BSL interpreted introduction to the BA Performance programme



**Stage & Screen continued...**

The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland’s undergraduate production-focused programmes are designed for the curious, the creative and the committed.

Transform sketches into intricate costumes, model boxes into grand stage sets and notes on a script into stunning lighting. As a production student, you will turn creative ideas into fully realised, full-scale productions. These programmes offer a hands-on approach to the world behind the scenes. You won’t just be learning – you’ll be actively contributing within one of the most dynamic and collaborative conservatoires in the world. You will get the chance to work on operas, musical theatre shows, drama productions, film sets, ballet showcases and so much more.

You’ll work alongside renowned professionals in RCS’s state-of-the-art production facilities, which are custom-built to ensure you have the best possible learning experience.

**BA Production Technology and Management**  
Three years, full-time

Through the programme, we aim to produce production technicians, stage managers and lighting designers who can turn their hands to any related role. This makes our students employable in a range of contexts, whilst also being specialists in their chosen career pathways.

[rcs.ac.uk/ptm](https://rcs.ac.uk/ptm)

**BA Production Arts and Design**  
Three years, full-time

The Production Arts and Design programme creates a high-level learning environment for aspiring scenic artists, prop makers, stage carpenters, costume makers, and set and costume designers. You will be learning in an environment where your creativity and individuality is as important as your technical skill.

[rcs.ac.uk/pad](https://rcs.ac.uk/pad)

**Important dates**  
Make sure you apply on time to guarantee an interview.  
UK deadline: **14 January**  
International deadline: **14 January**



**Find out more**  
Scan the code to view all  
RCS Production Programmes



**Stage & Screen continued...**

BA Filmmaking is a drama-focused, innovative and highly practical filmmaking programme curated for people who have a flair for storytelling on the big or small screen. In a country that is quickly becoming an epicentre for film and television, you will find that RCS provides an environment which will support you in developing your creative, personal and craft skills. As practitioners in your chosen discipline, there's nothing more rewarding than seeing your creative vision come to life, and at RCS you'll be equipped with everything you need to make that happen.

On this programme, you'll dive deep into a specialist area of your choosing (selected at point of application): Cinematography, Directing, Editing, Production, Sound and Writing. You will learn from industry experts and graduates while also collaborating with fellow students. You'll expand your industry networks and see productions that you have worked on submitted for local and international festivals. You will develop your craft in an environment where you're given time and space to learn and grow.

**BA Filmmaking**  
Three years, full-time

BA Filmmaking is a practical filmmaking programme aimed at those passionate about storytelling in cinema and television. It is a rich and challenging environment for students keen to develop their skills in a specialist field.

The programme will let you pursue a specialist area – Cinematography, Directing, Editing, Production, Sound or Writing – across three years. You will develop an effective and intellectual collaborative practice.

The programme structure allows you to progress in a conducive environment where time and space are given to learn and grow as well as providing you time to pursue work placement(s) that will enhance your professional development.

Studying filmmaking at RCS will give you the opportunity to work with actors, composers, dancers, musicians, and peers from our production programmes.

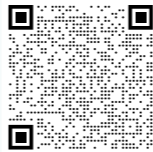
[rcs.ac.uk/filmmaking](https://rcs.ac.uk/filmmaking)

**Important dates**

Make sure you apply on time to guarantee an interview.

UK deadline: **14 January**

International deadline: **14 January**



**Find out more**

Scan the code to view all  
RCS Filmmaking Programmes

# Socially Engaged Practice

## BA Arts with Community

Three years, full-time

BA Arts with Community is for artists who want to explore performing and/or production arts in community contexts. Whether you are a performer, writer, musician, dancer, storyteller, production artist or filmmaker, this programme will encourage you to develop your own artform, facilitation practice and voice as a socially engaged practitioner.

It is ideal for self-determined learners who are motivated by the positive impact that the arts can have. Students will investigate the performing and/or production arts creatively, collaboratively and ethically with a range of people and settings, all underpinned by practice, theory and research.

[rcs.ac.uk/arts-community](https://rcs.ac.uk/arts-community)

*This programme is subject to validation*



# 74

# Music Education

Be the inspiration for the next generation of musicians. At RCS, you'll receive unparalleled practical experience allowing you to develop your own music skills whilst gaining the critical skills to become a highly regarded music educator.

We want to ensure the very best teachers are available to inspire performing arts students across the world. Our undergraduate education programmes aim to equip you with the skills to recognise the spark of potential within classrooms and understand how to motivate and nurture your students to be the best artists possible.

Join a vibrant community of musicians and educators as you take your first steps into teaching classrooms with a love of music that will resonate for generations.

**Find out about our Postgraduate Arts Education programmes on P.83**



## Bachelor of Education (Music) with Honours

Four years, full-time

*Accredited by the General Teaching Council for Scotland*

This vocational programme is for aspiring music teachers and will qualify you for working in both primary and secondary school music teaching, with integrated school placements on all four years of study.

More details about the programme, including the guaranteed probationary year of employment after graduation (for eligible graduates), are available on our website.

[rcs.ac.uk/BEd](https://rcs.ac.uk/BEd)

## Professional Graduate Diploma in Education (Music)

One year, full-time

*Accredited by the General Teaching Council for Scotland*

An intensive, one-year programme of teacher training for those who aspire to teach music in secondary schools. On this programme, you will engage with vocational studies in education (professional studies) and up to 90 days of school placement.

[rcs.ac.uk/pgde](https://rcs.ac.uk/pgde)

*This programme is subject to revalidation*

### Important dates

Make sure you apply on time to guarantee an interview.

UK deadline: **14 January**

International deadline: **14 January**



### Find out more

Scan the code to view all RCS Education Programmes

# 75

# Postgraduate



Chloe Lu Ye conducts the RCS Wind Orchestra in concert.

The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

**Embark on the next stage of your career with our postgraduate programmes. We offer a comprehensive range of postgraduate degrees designed to nurture already exceptional performers, educators and practitioners working across the performing arts.**

Whether you’re a seasoned musician seeking to push the boundaries of your primary instrument, an established educator looking to expand and sharpen your teaching practices or a performer looking to move into the director’s chair, the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland can provide you with the skills you need to achieve your ambitions.

Advanced PGDip in Music
Advanced Artist Diploma
Advanced Artist Diploma in Opera <i>in collaboration with Scottish Opera</i>
MMus/MA Chamber Music
MMus/MA Collaborative Piano
MMus/MA Composition
MMus/MA Conducting
MMus/MA Jazz
MMus/MA Performance
Brass
Guitar and Harp
Keyboard
Strings
Timpani and Percussion
Vocal Performance
Woodwind
MMus/MA Joint Principal Study
MMus/MA Performance and Musicology
MMus/MA Piano for Dance <i>in partnership with Scottish Ballet</i>
MMus Performance and Pedagogy
MMus/MA Repetiteurship
MMus/MA Traditional Music
MA/MFA Acting/Directing Classical and Contemporary Text
MA Musical Theatre: Musical Directing
Professional Graduate Diploma in Musical Directing
MA/MFA Production Design/Management
PhD/MPhil
Doctor of Performing Arts
<b>Online and Blended Learning</b>
MA Psychology in the Arts (Music)
MEd in Learning & Teaching in the Arts
PG Certificate in Learning & Teaching in the Arts
MA Creative Arts Practice
MA Arts Leadership and Fundraising



Opera student **Anna Marmion**  
performing in *The Magic Flute*.

# Music

Our postgraduate taught degrees are versatile, challenging programmes which help you to refine and extend your musicianship, preparing you for the next step in your professional career.

They have been specifically designed to propel you from being a seasoned performer to an expert in your chosen instrument. Musicians who undertake postgraduate study at RCS deepen their musical knowledge, receive diverse practical experience and are provided with regular mentoring from industry-established teachers.

## Advanced PGDip in Music

One year, full-time

## Advanced Artist Diploma

New for 2026

One year, full-time

## Advanced Artist Diploma in Opera

New for 2026

*In collaboration with Scottish Opera*

One year, full-time

*This programme is subject to validation*



## MMus/MA Chamber Music\*

Two years, full-time (MMus)

One year, full-time (MA)

## MMus/MA Collaborative Piano\*

Two years, full-time (MMus)

One year, full-time (MA)

## MMus/MA Composition\*

Two years, full-time (MMus)

One year, full-time (MA)

## MMus/MA Conducting

Two years, full-time (MMus)

One year, full-time (MA)

## MMus/MA Jazz\*

Two years, full-time (MMus)

One year, full-time (MA)

## MMus/MA Performance

New for 2026

Two years, full-time (MMus)

One year, full-time (MA)

- | **Brass**
- | **Guitar and Harp**
- | **Keyboard**
- | **Strings**
- | **Timpani and Percussion**
- | **Vocal Performance**
- | **Woodwind**

## MMus/MA Joint Principal Study

New for 2026

Two years, full-time (MMus)

One year, full-time (MA)

## MMus/MA Performance and Musicology

Two years, full-time (MMus)

One year, full-time (MA)

## MMus/MA Performance and Pedagogy

Two years, full-time (MMus)

One year, full-time (MA)

## MMus/MA Piano for Dance

*In collaboration with Scottish Ballet*

Two years, full-time (MMus)

One year, full-time (MA)

**SCOTTISH  
BALLET**

## MMus/MA Repetiteurship

Two years, full-time (MMus)

One year, full-time (MA)

## MMus/MA Traditional Music\*

Two years, full-time (MMus)

One year, full-time (MA)

Please note the first three terms of the MMus and MA are identical: MA students complete a further module in term four to complete the degree in a single year.

In selected cases, MMus programmes marked with an asterisk may be taken part-time across either three or four years. Please contact [hello@rcs.ac.uk](mailto:hello@rcs.ac.uk) for more information.

For full details on our music programmes, including performance opportunities, teaching staff and audition information, please see our website: [rcs.ac.uk/music](https://rcs.ac.uk/music)

*All MMus/MA Programmes are subject to revalidation*

# Stage & Screen

Refine your artistry, explore innovative practices, and prepare for a continued dynamic career on and off stage. As a postgraduate drama student, you will gain focused and advanced training from RCS's expert staff, industry exposure during performance periods, career guidance and development that places you at an advantage by the time you graduate. Alumni from our postgraduate Drama programmes have gone on to win Olivier Awards, star in Netflix TV series and direct some of the West End's biggest musicals.

## MA/MFA Acting/Directing Classical and Contemporary Text

One year/16 months, full-time

A programme for actors and directors who find themselves looking beyond traditional and contemporary artistic approaches as they seek to broaden and deepen their individual practice. Students who pursue this programme at MFA will benefit from an additional term of learning and teaching.

[rcs.ac.uk/macct](https://rcs.ac.uk/macct)

## MA Musical Theatre: Musical Directing

One year, full-time

Designed for practitioners who are looking to refine and develop their skills and experience within the area of Musical Directing. Opportunities will be given for each student to explore and challenge their values and passions within theatre, supported with mentorship and guidance from experienced practitioners.

[rcs.ac.uk/MAMD](https://rcs.ac.uk/MAMD)

## Professional Graduate Diploma in Musical Directing

One year, full-time

This one-year programme is designed to teach you the core skills and processes required to progress into the industry or on to full-time Masters study. Studying within a safe and collaborative environment, you will have the opportunity to work closely with key skill practitioners, performers, actors, musicians, and other artists from across RCS.

[rcs.ac.uk/pgmd](https://rcs.ac.uk/pgmd)

**“It challenges you in ways you didn’t know you needed and brings out the absolute best in you.”**

**Karin Hoelzl**  
MA/MFA Acting Classical and Contemporary Text Student (2023)



MA Acting Classical and Contemporary Text student  
**Yui Minari** performing in *Antigone*.

The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

**Stage & Screen continued...**

The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland offers two exceptional postgraduate programmes in production arts, equipping you with the advanced skills and industry connections to thrive in this dynamic field. On these programmes you'll delve into a rigorous and practical curriculum, taught by renowned professionals that prepare you to enter the industry with confidence.



**MA/MFA Production (Design/Management)**  
One year/16 months, full-time

The MA/MFA Production (Design/Management) programme is for those seeking to further enhance their skills as stage or production managers, or as lighting, sound, or set and costume designers through an exploration of individual and collaborative practice. Collaboration is at the centre of our philosophy. Having entered the programme with the core specialist skills required to fulfil the role of a designer or a manager, you will be introduced to other priorities which will inform and enhance your production practice within the context of the ensemble as part of a cohort of emerging artists. You will follow an individually negotiated programme of skills development, creating your own pathway through the degree and empowering you to take full advantage of opportunities for personal development, research, ensemble activities, work placements, and live production roles along the way.

**rcs.ac.uk/ma-production**  
*This programme is subject to validation*



**Arts Education**

The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland is renowned for its excellence in both performance and education. Our faculty is comprised of experienced musicians, expert educators and industry professionals who will guide you on this transformative journey. Our postgraduate education programmes will provide you with pedagogical expertise, practical experience, industry accreditation and professional development in an environment built around you and your learning needs. Whether you are looking to begin your career in arts education or looking to expand your skillset, you will find everything you need here.



**Postgraduate Certificate in Learning and Teaching in the Arts**  
Two years, part-time, Hybrid/Online



*Accredited by AdvanceHE*  
This part-time, blended learning programme provides a unique opportunity for arts educators to upgrade their teaching qualifications by integrating their studies into their existing teaching contexts. The programme includes a mix of face-to-face and online sessions, one-to-one tutorials and independent study, while distance learning students can study the programme fully online.  
**rcs.ac.uk/pg-cert**  
*This programme is subject to revalidation*

# Online and Blended-Learning Masters

The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland's innovative online and blended learning postgraduate programmes offer a world-class arts education, tailored to fit your life as a working professional. Designed for established artists and educators seeking to deepen their practice, these flexible part-time programmes provide access to our expert faculty and global arts community, all from the comfort of your own space. Explore RCS's suite of online programmes and discover a dynamic learning environment delivered with the flexibility and accessibility you need.

## Master of Education in Learning and Teaching in the Arts

Three years, part-time, Hybrid/Online

*Accredited by AdvanceHE and the General Teaching Council for Scotland*

The part time, blended learning MEd programme is specifically designed for people teaching in the arts who want to upskill or formalise their teaching experience.

It is open to anyone in an arts teaching scenario – both formal educators (such as primary, secondary, FE and HE teachers) and informal educators (such as freelance workshop facilitators, teaching artists or community arts leaders) and can be studied fully online if necessary.

[rcs.ac.uk/MEd](https://rcs.ac.uk/MEd)

*This programme is subject to revalidation*

## MA Psychology in the Arts (Music)

Two years, part-time, Hybrid/Online

This MA programme is for people with a strong interest or established practice in music and will develop your thinking and encourage your curiosity about the role music plays in our lives. You will gain a rich understanding of its significance and influence on the human mind.

Over the 2-year programme you will be supported by the RCS music psychology team to explore three key areas of music psychology: developmental, performance and social. In addition, you will develop robust research skills before embarking on your own bespoke research project.

Flexible lecture and seminar times are provided to ensure no matter where you are in the world you can attend and feel part of this community.

[rcs.ac.uk/ma-psych](https://rcs.ac.uk/ma-psych)

**“Learning from Singapore has not been a problem at all... RCS were always very considerate of online learners and did their utmost to ensure we had a positive experience on a par with those in the physical space.”**

**Julie Nicholson**

MEd Learning and Teaching in the Arts student (2021)

## MA Arts Leadership & Fundraising

One year / two years, Full-time / part-time, Hybrid/Online

This new online Masters programme will empower you to elevate your skills in leadership, management and sustainable business practices. This programme is delivered in modules, where you'll be supported by RCS lecturers and industry experts to critically engage with your practice and to refine your identity as thinker, maker and leader. Core to the programme is the exploration and critical thinking around contemporary leadership and management theory, enabling you to upskill, reskill or take your career forward as a change-maker in the arts.

[rcs.ac.uk/ALF](https://rcs.ac.uk/ALF)

*This programme is subject to validation*



## MA Creative Arts Practice

One year / two years, Full-time / part-time, Hybrid/Online

This one-year, practice-led, modular programme for creative graduates will evolve your practice and enhance employability in a world-leading performing and production arts education environment.

As contemporary creative artists often work across and beyond the traditional boundaries of artistic disciplines, the focus will be on bespoke, individual learning.

You will engage in critical inquiry to identify meaningful goals and develop essential knowledge, skills and attitudes for success in your artistic journey. Throughout the programme, you will have the opportunity to build a professional network and receive support to critically engage with your practice to transform your creative identity.

[rcs.ac.uk/CAP](https://rcs.ac.uk/CAP)

*This programme is subject to validation*



# Research at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland is about inspiring innovative directions for our art forms, fresh insights into their processes and practices, and new perspectives on their role in our economies, cultures and ecologies.

## Research

At RCS, research is characterised by two 'Ts' – interdisciplinarity and impact – which are evidenced across the range of our work and underpin the way we support research. We create world-leading and internationally excellent research and pursue outcomes that include new artworks and performances, exhibitions, recordings and writing.

The Research and Knowledge Exchange (KE) department has three main functions:

- | To lead research and KE, offering strategic direction and to lead by example, collaborating with others and creating work with lasting impact
- | To support and inspire, helping staff to pursue their own projects with targeted awards, mentoring and training
- | To direct the Conservatoire's doctoral programmes over a range of disciplines, working in collaboration with our validating partner for research degrees, the University of St Andrews, and other members of the Scottish Graduate School of the Arts and Humanities (SGSAH) AHRC Doctoral Training Partnership.

### Doctor of Philosophy

Three years, full-time OR six years, part-time

### Master of Philosophy

Two years, full-time OR four years, part-time

You will be encouraged to work with your supervisor, staff and students from across RCS to drive and develop your research to its fullest potential. Working within our distinctive environment, we expect students to embrace the many training and performance opportunities that are available.

Specific areas for research degrees include:

- | the processes and methodologies of developing new performance work (music/dance/drama/musical theatre), including collaborative and devised performance
- | performance
- | musical composition, in all genres, for live, electroacoustic and mixed media
- | Scottish music
- | methodologies of specialist performance training, including the use of IT
- | socio-cultural studies of performance
- | performance education and pedagogy.

[rcs.ac.uk/phd-mphil](https://rcs.ac.uk/phd-mphil)



### Doctor of Performing Arts

Three years, full-time OR six years, part-time

This innovative professional doctorate supports you to develop your practice at the highest level and provides a structure within which you can make a significant and original contribution to your chosen artistic field. It is a doctoral programme comparable in scope, level and ambition to the PhD, but focused on making a significant and original contribution to the artistic field within which your work resides.

[rcs.ac.uk/dperf](https://rcs.ac.uk/dperf)

### Important dates

Application deadlines to start your doctoral degree the following September:

All doctoral degrees: **30 January**

For full details on our doctoral programmes, including student opportunities, supervisors and application information, please see our website:

[rcs.ac.uk/doctoral-degrees](https://rcs.ac.uk/doctoral-degrees)



### Find out more

Scan the code to view all RCS Research Programmes



# How to Apply

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Phoebe Watson, BA Modern Ballet student from New Zealand at The Keplies.

The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

## How to apply

Applications to the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland must be made through the UCAS online admissions service. Whilst the majority of our programmes use UCAS Conservatoires, some use UCAS Undergraduate or a direct application. Please check the individual programme pages on our website in order to get the most up-to-date requirements and relevant UCAS codes.

We encourage you to submit your application before the closing date. If you submit your application after the closing date, there is no guarantee your application will be considered. For further information on how to apply and the audition process, please see our website:

**[rcs.ac.uk/apply](https://rcs.ac.uk/apply)**

The Admissions team will be able to help you with any questions you have throughout the application process. You can contact them at **[admissions@rcs.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@rcs.ac.uk)**

## Application closing dates

We look forward to receiving your application to study with us. For programmes starting the following September, the application closing dates are outlined below, with dates being correct at the time of going to print. For the most up-to-date closing dates, please refer to the RCS website. Application closing dates for each programme are published on our website: **[rcs.ac.uk/apply](https://rcs.ac.uk/apply)**

### Music programmes:

2 October for UK applicants and international keyboard principal study/collaborative piano.  
1 December for international applicants.

### Bachelor of Education (Music) programme:

29 January.

### Professional Graduate Diploma in Education (Music):

29 January.

### Stage & Screen and Dance programmes:

14 January 2026 for UK applications for BA Acting and BA Musical Theatre.

30 January 2026 for international applications for BA Acting and BA Musical Theatre.

14 January 2026 for all other UK applications.

31 March for all other international applications.

### Postgraduate Stage & Screen, Education and Online Learning programmes:

31 March for all applicants.

### Research programmes:

30 January for all other applicants.

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## Entry requirements

Through our recruitment and admissions processes, as well as our commitment to pre-Higher Education courses, we actively seek to develop and maintain a diverse learning community. It is our strong belief that the professions we serve will be more effective and of greater benefit to society and culture if their members are representative of a diverse society. Therefore, we recognise that we need an admissions process that is flexible, and pays specific attention to the background, needs and potential of every individual applicant.

Entrance to the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland's programmes is based on talent, potential and ability. We are looking for students who display outstanding potential, dedication and ambition for the performing and production arts.

## Academic entry requirements

General academic entry requirements are published on each individual programme page on our website. We also accept a wide range of qualifications not listed, including international qualifications. If you would like to check the suitability of your qualifications or experience, please get in touch with us at **[admissions@rcs.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@rcs.ac.uk)**

We welcome applications from individuals whose academic qualifications do not match (in terms of equivalence) or fall short of the normal entrance requirements\*. We will consider all relevant experience that may compensate for the lack of traditional education.

Having satisfied the audition panel that you meet the selection criteria and demonstrated that you have the capacity and capability to pursue the proposed programme of study, such applicants will be considered through examination of contextualised data provided in accordance with the Non-Standard Entry Policy.

*\*Note that UK Visa and Immigration (UKVI) imposes minimum English Language qualifications in respect of international applicants who require a Student Visa to study in the UK.*

## Language requirements

The language of study at Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (RCS) is English. If your first language is not English, you will be required to provide evidence of proficiency in English. Our required scores, accepted English language tests and other accepted English language qualifications can be found at: **[rcs.ac.uk/english-language](https://rcs.ac.uk/english-language)**

Other equivalent English language qualifications may be considered – please contact **[admissions@rcs.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@rcs.ac.uk)** for further information.

### Auditions and interviews

The audition/interview process is different for each programme and we recommend that you read the full audition/interview process for your chosen programme online: [rcs.ac.uk/apply](https://www.rcs.ac.uk/apply)

Our admissions processes are designed to be fair, transparent and efficient. The audition/interview approach serves the dual purpose of allowing the panel to assess your suitability for your chosen programme, whilst also giving you the opportunity to gain a deeper insight into the programme and the opportunities that RCS offers.

All applications made before the programme's specific closing date are guaranteed to be considered. Details on the audition/interview process are available online at [rcs.ac.uk/apply](https://www.rcs.ac.uk/apply). This includes information on any deadlines, audition information, repertoire/requirements and what to expect following your audition/interview.

### Tuition fees

Please see [rcs.ac.uk/feesandfunding](https://www.rcs.ac.uk/feesandfunding) for the most up-to-date tuition fees, as well as further information on financial support.

### Funding

#### Students from Scotland

All funding enquiries for Scottish students should be directed to the Student Awards Agency Scotland (SAAS): [www.saas.gov.uk](https://www.saas.gov.uk)

#### Students from England, Wales and Northern Ireland

You may be eligible for the same funding or loan package you would benefit from if you attended an institution in your home nation. For more information, please visit the relevant website:

England: [www.gov.uk/student-finance](https://www.gov.uk/student-finance)  
Wales: [www.studentfinancewales.co.uk](https://www.studentfinancewales.co.uk)  
Northern Ireland: [www.studentfinanceneni.co.uk](https://www.studentfinanceneni.co.uk)

#### International students (inc. Europe)

International students typically finance their studies through a combination of sources. The most common include personal or family savings, educational loan schemes from their home country, and support from national or international organisations such as charities, trusts, and not-for-profit bodies. [rcs.ac.uk/study/fees-funding/international/](https://www.rcs.ac.uk/study/fees-funding/international/)

All images unless otherwise stated © Royal Conservatoire of Scotland/Hope Holmes/Robbie McFadzean/Julie Howden/KK Dundas. Cover and gatefold: Guy Farrow. P.27 – Ramesh Meyyappan by Richard Walker. P.28 – Elisabeth Leonskaja by Richard Walker. P.34 – Production still from Scottish Opera's A Midsummer Night's Dream by James Glossop; still from Kidnapped by Mihaela Bodlovic. P.36 – Swan Lake performed by Scottish Ballet by Andy Ross; Thomas Søndergård conducts the RSNO by Martin Shields; Scottish Ensemble by Tommy Ga Ken Wan. P.39 – Production still from The Snow Queen by Andy Ross. P.40 – Hannah Cubitt by Mihaela Bodlovic. P.41 – Benjamin Osugo by Marc Brenner. P.42 – Adam Lee by Alan Blakeley. P.43 Colleen Bell by the Royal Television Society. P.44 – Marie Cayeux by Duncan McGlynn. P.48 – Morven McLeod by Eilish Adair; Sarah Ayoub by Abdallah Nafea; Fergus McCreadie by Dave Stapleton, Edition Records; Chris Poon by Samuel Black Photography; Sam McShane by Campbell David Parker; Craig McCulloch by Jessica Hardwick; Nicola Killean by Sistema Scotland; Jay Capperauld by Euan Robertson. P.51 – Visit Scotland. P.53 – Alistair Devine. P.59 – Student Collaboration Society by Luca Dickson. P.60 – Julia Bauer. P.64 – Second Person Narrative by Tim Morozzo. P.66 – Various Ballet Photos by Andy Ross. P.68 – Tim Morozzo. P.70 – Jacob Martin Walls & Richard Walker. P.72 – Upper two images by Richard Walker. P.74 – Group workshop by Ellen McNeill. P.87 – Richard Walker. P.88 – Alistair Devine.

### External funding

For more information about alternative funding sources, including external scholarships and bursaries, please visit [rcs.ac.uk/external-funding](https://www.rcs.ac.uk/external-funding)

Our International and Student Experience Team is available to advise and assist applicants and current students about funding your studies at RCS.

Please email [studentfinance @rcs.ac.uk](mailto:studentfinance@rcs.ac.uk)

### Scholarships

Each year, the RCS Trust awards scholarships to incoming and continuing RCS undergraduate, postgraduate and research students from Scotland, the rest of the UK, and all over the world on the basis of merit and/or financial need.

School of Music scholarships are awarded automatically, often for the duration of the programme, following audition and offer. School of Stage and Screen scholarships are awarded annually, with applicants invited to apply after receiving an offer.

For more details on scholarships please visit: [rcs.ac.uk/scholarships](https://www.rcs.ac.uk/scholarships)

### Curriculum review: Subject to re/validation

Along with all other Higher Education institutions in the UK, we undertake regular reviews of our curriculum. As we are in a review cycle for our postgraduate music curriculum at the time of publication, all postgraduate programmes starting in 2025 and 2026 are currently designated 'subject to revalidation'. This is standard practice during curriculum review periods. The most up-to-date information will be found on our website. The outcome of this process may mean that there will be some changes to how your programme is delivered. Our intent remains the same: to deliver high-quality teaching and student experiences for your development as a performing artist and entrepreneur.



The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland is one of the four UK Royal Conservatoires. We join the Royal Academy of Music, the Royal College of Music and the Royal Northern College of Music as proud partners in the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM). ABRSM is the UK's largest music education body and seeks to inspire musical achievement throughout the world. [abrsm.org](https://www.abrsm.org)



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